

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-04 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01
CEA-01 FRB-03 COME-00 FCSC-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 OES-07
NSF-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /118 W
-----088492 161320Z /46

P R 161115Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3178
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 1959

E.O. 11652; GDS
TAGS : PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JABLONSKY SURVEYS US-CZECHOSLOVAK
RELATIONS

REFS A. 76 PRAGUE 1829, B. 76 PRAGUE 3517 C. PRAGUE 1602

1. SUMMARY: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JABLONSKY CALLED IN CHARGE
JULY 14 TODISCUSS MAIN ASPECTS OF BILATERAL RELTAIONS, INCLUDING
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EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, CLAIMS/GOLD SETTLEMENT, TRADE RELATIONS, AND
POSSIBLE VISIT TO PRAGUE BY MAYOR WASHINGTON. JABLONSKY
TOOK NOTABLY FORWARD-LOOKING AND NON-POLEMICAL STANCE IN
DISCUSSING ALL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MECISLAV JABLONSKY, RECENTLY RETURNED
FROM AMBASSADORSHIP TO LONDON, CALLED IN CHARGE FOR A CORDIAL AND

BUSINESSLIKE TOUR D' HORIZON OF CURRENT US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS. JABLONSKY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT OFFICER, KAMIS, AND CHARGE BY EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER (EVANS). SINCE ASSUMING HIS PRESENT POST JUNE 1, JABLONSKY SAID, HE HAD TAKEN CHARGE OF GOC RELATIONS WITH NORTH AMERICA, WESTERN EUROPE PLUS THE GDR. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL'S FORMER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA HAD BEEN A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT, HE SAID, IN THAT SPACIL HAD BEEN STANDING IN FOR DEP MIN RUZEK, WHOM JABLONSKY HAS REPLACED. SINCE ASSUMING HIS NEW FUNCTIONS, JABLONSKY HAS CLEARLY BEEN READING INTO HIS JOB. IT WAS EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE MEETING THAT HE HAD DONE HIS HOME WORK IN REVIEWING THE RECORD OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS FOR THE PAST YEAR--IN PARTICULAR THE RECORD OF AMBASSADOR BYRNE'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT HUSAK AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK (REFS A AND B).

3. EXCHANGES AGREEMENT: JABLONSKY SAID THE CZECHOSLOVAK FEDERAL ASSEMBLY FINALLY APPROVED THE TEXT OF THE CULRUARAL/EDUCATIONAL/SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT ON JULY 7. HE THEN SAID GOC WOULD LIKE TO SIGN THE ACCORD AND ASKED WHEN AND WHERE US SIDE ENVISIONED A SIGNING CEREMONY. CHARGE WELCOMED NEWS OF THE LONG-ANTICIPATED GOC APPROVAL, BUT NOTED US POSITION HAD ALWAYS BEEN THAT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT FIRST AND THAT BOTH THOSE PROGRAMS AND THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SIGNED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE VENUE FOR SIGNING COULD BE DECIDED LATER, BUT IN MEANTIME WASHINGTON WOULD BE PREPARING

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US IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM DRAFTS, WHICH MIGHT BE READY FOR PRESENTATION TO MFA "REASONABLY SOON". AS TO WHEN THE OVERALL PACKAGE WOULD BE READY FOR SIGNATURE, CHARGE THOUGHT IT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT REAL PROGRESS BEFORE THE FALL. JABLONSKY SEEMED SATISFIED BUT GENTLY RECALLED THAT IN AMBASSADOR BYRNE'S MEETINGS WITH HUSAK AND CHNOUPEK, BOTH SIDES HAD INDICATED DESIRE TO ADVANCE BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE HOPED CONSUMMATION OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE DEFERRED TOO LONG. CHARGE RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS IN LATE 1976, SINCE JANUARY 1 DIFFERING US AND CZECHOSLOVAK POSITIONS IN THE EAST-WEST DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAD LED TO POLITICAL STRAINS THAT HAVE SLOWED THINGS DOWN. CHARGE THOUGHT RENEWED PROGRESS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THE FALL, HOWEVER, AFTER AMBASSADOR BYRNE'S RETURN TO POST. JABLONSKY CONSPICUOUSLY AVOIDED ANY EXCHANGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS AND PROMPTLY CHANGED THE SUBJECT.

4. US-CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE RELATIONS: THE DEPUTY MINISTER TOOK NOTE OF "INTERESTING TALKS" HE HAD HAD WITH US CHAIRMAN OF US-CZECHOSLOVAK ECONOMIC COUNCIL J. PAUL LYET DURING LATTER'S JUNE 6-10 VISIT HERE (REF C). HE SAID MFA WAS PREPARED TO RECOMMEND THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER JAKUBEC ACCEPT MR. LYET'S SUGGESTION

TO ATTEND THE COUNCIL'S PLENARY SESSION AT WASHINGTON THIS FALL--
PROVIDED THAT JAKUBEC BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH HIS
COUNTERPARTS IN WASHINGTON. JABLONSKY STRONGLY HOPED A MEETING
WOULD BE ARRANGED WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE KREPS. CHARGE WAS
NON-COMMITTAL BUT AGREED TO REPORT JABLONSKY'S REMARKS TO
WASHINGTON AND TO RESPOND IN DUE COURSE. (NOTE: DISCUSSION
OF POSSIBLE JAKUBEC VISIT WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.)

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5. CLAIMS/GOLD. CALLING IT UNNECESSARY TO ADD TO WHAT FOREIGN
MINISTER CHNOUPEK HAD SAID ON CLAIMS/GOLD IN HIS RECENT
AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT ON "THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT" TO THE FEDERAL
ASSEMBLY, JABLONSKY REITERATED GOC'S READINESS TO "LOOK AT ANY
REASONABLE PROPOSAL". AGREEING THAT THE ISSUE WAS INDEED IMPORTANT,
CHARGE REMINDED JABLONSKY THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN GIVEN A
MANDATE UNDER THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TO RENEGOTIATE THE CLAIMS

AGREEMENT, BUT WITH A NEW ADMINISTRATION SETTLING IN AND COMING TO GRIPS WITH SO MANY COMPLEX ISSUES IN WASHINGTON, IT WOULD
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UNDERSTANDABLY TAKE SOME TIME TO DEVELOP A NEW PROPOSAL. CHARGE REASONED THAT IN LIGHT OF PAST FAILURES TO REACH A DEFINITIVE ACCORD, IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO ALL CONCERNED TO TAKE ALL THE TIME NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE NEXT NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS FULLY IMPLEMENTED. JABLONSKY UNDERSTOOD THE QUESTION COULD NOT BE SOLVED "IN A FEW WEEKS", BUT FOR ITS PART, GOC "WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS OBSTACLE REMOVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". HE STRESSED THAT US IS ONLY COUNTRY WITH WHICH CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS BEEN UNABLE TO RESOLVE CLAIMS PROBLEM--SOME OF WHICH, HE OBSERVED, WERE MUCH MORE COMPLICATED AND COSTLY THAN THOSE WITH THE UNITED STATES. JABLONSKY MADE A POINT OF EMPHASIZING THAT GOC COULD NOT "RENEGOTIATE" THE ENTIRE 1974 SETTLEMENT. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT US SIDE IS BOUND BY LEGISLATION TO RENEGOTIATE THE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT BEFORE THERE COULD BE ANY CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING MFN PRIVILEGES TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITHIN CONTEXT OF A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT: HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT MFN WOULD LIKELY LEAD TO SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES
IN CZECH EXPORTS TO US. CHARGE THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN SEMANTICS OVER THE TERM "RENEGOTIATE."
THERE WAS NO DESIRE TO TEAR UP THE 1974 SETTLEMENT AND START ALL OVER AGAIN. WHAT IS REQUIRED IS AGREEMENT ON SOME NEW TERMS--MAINLY THE SUM TO BE PAID TO US CLAIMANTS.

6. VISIT OF MAYOR WASHINGTON. JABLONSKY SAID HE HAD LEARNED FROM RECENTLY RETURNED AMBASSADOR JOHANNES THAT MAYOR WASHINGTON HAD TELEPHONED JOHANNES AT CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE LAST WEEK TO SAY THAT HE, THE MAYOR, MIGHT VISIT PRAGUE IN AUGUST. JABLONSKY ASKED WHAT THE EMBASSY KNEW ABOUT THE VISIT. CHARGE SAID EMBASSY WAS AWARE THE MAYOR MIGHT WANT TO COME TO PRAGUE THIS SUMMER BUT HAD NOT DETAILS--ESPECIALLY ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE MAYOR HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY INVITED. JABLONSKY STATED THAT GOC CONSIDERS STILL VALID THE INVITATION EXTENDED TO MAYOR WASHINGTON IN EARLY 1970'S AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO ARRANGE FOR HIS VISIT HERE,
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INCLUDING PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATIONS AT GUEST QUARTERS OF THE MAYOR OF PRAGUE. CHARGE AGREED TO REPORT THIS TO DEPARTMENT AND TO COORDINATE VISIT ARRANGEMENTS WITH MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT.
ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHEN MAYOR WASHINGTON'S PLANS ARE SET, PARTICULARLY DATES AND ITINERARY.

7. COMMENT: TALL AND DIGNIFIED IN APPEARANCE AND MANNER, JABLONSKY

STRIKES US AS HAVING BECOME A POLISHED AND COMPETENT DIPLOMAT. HE HAS BEEN REVIEWING CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WITHIN HIS PURVIEW AND HAS RECENTLY EMBARKED ON A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THOSE COUNTRIES IN PRAGUE. WE WERE STRUCK BY JABLONSKY'S STUDIOUS AVOIDANCE OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES AND DESIRE TO LOOK AHEAD, RATHER THAN TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE PAST, TO MOVE BILATERAL RELATIONS FORWARD TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE. PERHAPS JABLONSKY WISHED TO REGISTER MFA VIEWS ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME, ON THE EVE OF AMBASSADOR BYRNE'S CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SURVEYS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE01959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770254-0093
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770750/aaaabrdc.tel
Line Count: 235
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9706366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PRAGUE 1829, 76 PRAGUE 3517
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1841258
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JABLONSKY SURVEYS US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9706366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009